

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of manufacturing a flow connector, comprising:

molding from a composition comprising at least one polymer a preform having a wall thickness defining an internal cavity and comprising at least two apertures through said wall thickness, and

joining a cap comprising at least one polymer onto at least one of said apertures.

2. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flow connector according to claim 1

wherein said preform comprises a longitudinal axis and one of said at least two apertures is located at the end of said longitudinal axis.

3. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flow connector according to claim 2

wherein said preform further comprises a substantially tubular portion disposed around said longitudinal axis.

4. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flow connector according to claim 3

wherein said substantially tubular portion further comprises a flange disposed around said aperture located at the end of said longitudinal axis and said cap comprises a face having a flange, the flanges of said substantially tubular portion and said cap being configured in shape and thickness to mate and bond with each other.

5. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flow connector according to claim 4

wherein said substantially tubular portion and said cap further comprise corresponding reservoirs

and lips disposed around said flanges for accommodating a melt front of polymer during said joining.

6. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flow connector according to claim 3 wherein said substantially tubular portion defines a manifold body for fluid handling.

7. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flow connector according to claim 6 wherein said at least two apertures is a plurality of ports located in said manifold body.

8. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flow connector according to claim 1 wherein said molding is performed by injection molding.

9. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flow connector according to claim 8 wherein said injection molding is performed by moving a core pin inside a mold along said longitudinal axis to form said preform.

10. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flow connector according to claim 1 wherein said joining is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of plastic bonding and plastic welding.

11. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flow connector according to claim 10 wherein said joining is performed by fusion welding.

12. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flow connector according to claim 10 wherein said joining is performed by induction-heating joining.

13 - 25. (Canceled)

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant elects, with out traverse, Group I (including Claims 1 - 12) for prosecution on the merits.

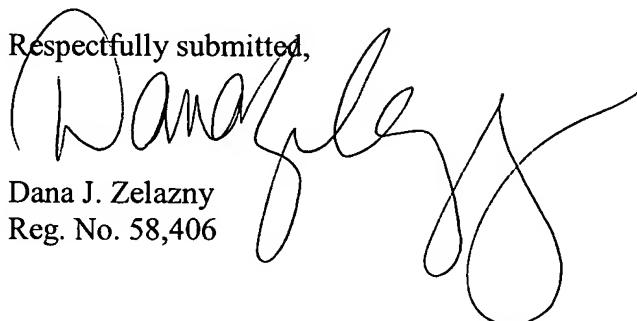
Applicant has cancelled Claims 13 - 25. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment and substantive examination of Claims 1 - 12.

CONCLUSION

No fee is believed to be necessary for entry of this Amendment. However, if a fee is necessary, please charge deposit account 13-3080 for any such fee. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana J. Zelazny
Reg. No. 58,406



Docket No.: 010355-9136-00
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 3300
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
414.271.6560

T:\CLIENTA\010355\9136\A1943882.1